



CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES

June 3, 2008

TOM LATHAM
Congressman
4th District, Iowa

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary
U.S. Department of Labor
200 Constitution Avenue
Room S-2018
Washington, D.C. 20210

Dear Madame Secretary:

I write today to express my grave concern with the recent announcement that the Winnebago Corporation will idle its Charles City Manufacturing Facility in Charles City, Iowa. Approximately 270 full time, salaried employees of the Winnebago Corporation will be affected by this decision.

The Charles City Manufacturing Facility was completed in early 2004 and produces Class A and Class C motor homes. Production has been negatively influenced by worsening economic conditions, high fuel prices and declining consumer confidence. Consequently, the motor home industry, as a whole, has suffered in recent months from these unpredictable circumstances.

The layoff of 270 people will hit Charles City and Floyd County hard. Accordingly, I strongly urge you to draw on all available federal employment assistance and work closely with the Iowa Workforce Development to assist affected employees. The need for regional assistance is clear given the economic decline facing our communities as a result of the layoffs from the Winnebago Corporation.

I appreciate your prompt consideration of this request. I offer my full support, as well as that of my staff, in helping the Department of Labor meet this appeal for assistance. Please contact me if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tom Latham".

Tom Latham
Member of Congress

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